

application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it may arguably include claims to distinct or independent variations. M.P.E.P. §803. It is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of all of the claims of the present application can be made without serious burden on the Office.

The present inventions are closely related such that they can be readily searched concurrently. More specifically, the Group I claims 1-9 and 21-23 (directed to a purified mammalian Dh-OLF having binding reactivity with antibody raised against plant-related dihydroouabain, a binding agent having affinity for such a factor, and a pharmaceutical composition comprising the factor or the binding agent and a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier) are related to the Group II claims 10-20, 24-26, 27-34 (a method of prophylactically or therapeutically treating a condition associated with higher than normal sodium pump activity, comprising administering to a subject in need of the treatment an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the Dh-OLF factor; a method of prophylactically or therapeutically treating a condition associated with higher than normal OLF or DhOLF levels comprising administering to a subject in need of the treatment an effective amount of such a composition; a quantitative method of detecting Dh-OLF in an animal sample which method employs binding agents, e.g., antibodies; and to a quantitative method of detecting Dh-OLF in an animal sample comprising isolating Dh-OLF by HPLC) as compounds and methods of using these compounds. Thus, it is clear that the claims in Groups I and II are closely related and can be efficiently and effectively searched in a single search.

Conclusion

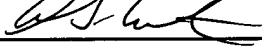
The Restriction Requirement is properly traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

ROLAND VALDES, JR. ET AL.

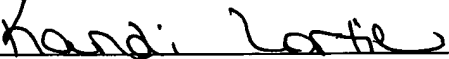
By their Representatives,

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Date 25 October 2001 By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 25th day of October, 2001.

Name



Signature

